

**St. Oswald Lodge, No. 910.**

Date of Warrant—14th February, 1862.

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**CENTENARY MEETING**

**1962**



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**Held at the OLD TOWN HALL, PONTEFRACT,**

**Wednesday, 20th June, 1962.**



**W. Bro. T. W. TEW, First Worshipful Master,  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master, 1875-1885.  
Provincial Grand Master, 1885-1893.**

## Order of Proceedings.

1. Opening Hymn.
2. To open the Lodge.
3. To read the Dispensation.
4. To read the Summons convening the Lodge.
5. To read and, if approved, confirm the Minutes of the last Regular Lodge.
6. W. Bro. H. J. Whitehead will propose and W. Bro. H. J. Gundill will second that the sum of 100 guineas be donated to the 1964 Festival of the R.M.I. Girls.
7. To receive the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. H. Clifford Smith, J.P.; the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, W. Bro. John H. Bromley, P.G.D., W. Bro. Sir James Croysdale, P.G.D., and the Officers of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, present and past.
8. The Provincial Grand Master will be saluted.
9. The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters will be saluted.
10. The Officers of Grand Lodge, present and past, will be saluted.
11. The Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, present and past, will be saluted.
12. W. Bro. A. Douglas Smith, will read the Minutes of the Lodge held on the 7th April, 1862.
13. A short history of the Lodge will be read by Bro. J. Claxton Smith.
14. The Provincial Grand Secretary will read the Centenary Warrant, which will be presented to the Worshipful Master by the Provincial Grand Master.
15. The Provincial Grand Master will present Centenary Jewels to the Members of the Lodge.
16. W. Bro. H. J. Whitehead will present a cheque for 100 guineas to the Chairman of the Charity Committee, W. Bro. Richard Taylor, P.G.D., as a donation to the 1964 Festival of the R.M.I. Girls.
17. To close the Lodge.
18. Closing Hymn.

**List of Officers = 1962-63.**

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W.M.	...	...	Bro. T. H. Murray.
I.P.M.	...	...	W. Bro. H. E. Elsley.
S.W.	...	...	Bro. A. Maurice Smith.
J.W.	...	...	„ G. W. Eaton.
Chaplain	...	...	W. Bro. F. J. Lee, P.P.A.G.D.C.
Treasurer	...	„ „	H. J. Whitehead.
Secretary	...	„ „	A. Pollard.
D. of C.	...	„ „	K. W. Godson, P.P.A.G.Sw.B.
S.D.	...	...	Bro. Rev. A. F. Armstrong.
J.D.	...	...	„ E. O'Neill.
Asst. D. of C.	...	...	W. Bro. H. J. Gundill.
Almoner	...	„ „	A. Douglas Smith.
Organist	...	...	Bro. J. L. Robinson.
Asst. Sec.	...	„ „	R. P. Ewbank.
I.G.	...	...	„ J. L. Holland.
Stewards	...	„ „	S. Sykes. „ C. Banks.
Tyler	...	...	„ C. Radford.

St. Oswald Lodge, Mo. 910.

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SHORT HISTORY OF ITS FIRST  
HUNDRED YEARS

1862 — 1962

1962

## The History of St. Oswald Lodge.

### Masonry in the Pontefract District.

Local Masonic history is not without interest. The existence of that quaint and valuable Masonic document, the York Manuscript No. 1, endorsed "found in Pontefract Castle at the Demolishing" indicates that Masonry in some form existed in the borough between the years 1600 and 1649. This manuscript begins with an "Anagraime" on the word "Masonrie" which contains a list of Constitutions of Masonry.

It is also recorded in the *Leeds Mercury* of 16th January 1721 that Freemasons, wearing aprons and white gloves and preceded by a brass band, paraded the streets of Pontefract on New Year's Day of 1721 and scattered handfuls of money among the crowd of onlookers.

### The Formation of the Lodge.

Masonry came to Pontefract in tangible form in 1862. There had been an earlier attempt by the Earl of Mexborough, then Provincial Grand Master, to establish a lodge in the town in 1823. This had failed as "from some cause his efforts met with no encouragement, and his personal influence failed to impress the men of Pontefract with the civilising advantages which a Lodge confers."

In the autumn of 1861 three non-masons, Messrs. Ryder, Routledge and Robson, met at the house of Mr. Jerh. Rhodes, a master mason, and expressed a desire to join the craft. A further casual meeting elicited the information that Mr. T. W. Tew was a master mason. Mr. Wm. Hall, a past master of Integrity Lodge, Morley, was found to be the third known master mason in the town. These three brethren, stimulated by their aspiring friends, devised a plan to form a lodge within the borough. Four members of the Wakefield Lodge, then No. 727 (now No. 495), two of whom were founder members of that Lodge, joined the Pontefract brethren in a petition to Grand Lodge for a warrant to establish the St. Oswald Lodge.

### The Petition and the Warrant of the Lodge.

The Petition, which is not dated, named the three Pontefract brethren as W.M. and Wardens. Here we have the instance of a master mason who had not served the office of Warden being nominated and appointed by the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, to the chair of Worshipful Master of a new lodge.

The name of the Lodge was no doubt suggested by Bro. Tew as suitable for a lodge in the heart of Osgoldcross or Oswaldcross. Oswald, a soldier king, became Bishop of Durham and it was through him that the first Christian Church was built in these parts. Oswald was slain at Oswestry or Oswaldtree, near Chester, in the year 642 and was later canonised. The good Bishop, as St. Oswald, became the patron saint of this district and a Cross to his memory was erected between Pontefract and Ferrybridge.

The motto of the Lodge, "Sit Lux et Lux fuit," is the latin version of the Hebrew scripture (*Genesis* i, 3) which is rendered in the Authorised Version as "God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.' And God saw the light that it was good."

The Warrant of the Lodge, signed by the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, is dated the 14th February 1862.

The number given to the Lodge was 1212, which, on the renumbering of lodges in 1863, was changed to 910.

### The First Meeting and the Consecration.

The first meeting was held in the upper rooms of Mr. Arundel's office in Ropergate on the 7th April 1862.

The Lodge was opened in the first degree by W. Bro. John Gill, P.Prov.G.D.C. This meeting, called in the minute book a "Lodge of Emergency," saw Bro. T. W. Tew duly installed as the first Worshipful Master of St. Oswald Lodge No. 1212 by W. Bro. John Gill of Wakefield Lodge No. 727. His two senior officers were W. Bro. Wm. Hall as Senior Warden and Bro. Jerh. Rhodes as Junior Warden. The Lodge was closed in due form, the brethren adjourning to the Green Dragon Hotel for the Installation Banquet. At this Banquet the W.M. Bro. Tew delivered (on this occasion to non-masons as well as to brethren) the first of many able addresses.

The Consecration did not take place until the 6th July 1864 when the Lodge was held, by dispensation, in the Town Hall. Here the Dep. Prov. G. Master W. Bro. Bentley Shaw consecrated the Lodge. The records in our own minutes are very scanty, and those of Provincial Grand Lodge, which met under the banner of St. Oswald, do not refer to the consecration of our Lodge. Here again W. Bro. Tew gave an oration, which the Dep. Prov. G.M. requested should be printed.

### Lodge Premises.

The original premises were in the upper rooms of the office in Ropergate of a Mr. Arundel, Solicitor, and were leased for 12 guineas a year for the first seven years and 11 guineas a year thereafter. In 1874 the Lodge moved from this cosy intimate atmosphere to larger rooms. However, these were not entirely suitable, as it is recorded that the ventilation was never to the members' complete satisfaction. From 1880, when £20 was put aside to create a building fund, the possibility of building a Masonic Hall was frequently discussed.

Many possible sites were considered until finally one in Ropergate was purchased in 1893 for £375 or 10/6d. per sq. yd. On this site a new Hall was built, the architect being Bro. J. H. Greaves. Rt. W. Bro. Tew, P. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, P.G.D. of England and Founder of this Lodge, laid the foundation stone at the N.E. corner of the building on the 25th January 1894.

"On October 10th at 5 p.m. the brethren assembled in the Dining Hall of the new building. The W.M. presented a Silver Key to Bro. Tew who, though in feeble health, entered and opened the Lodge in due form and then delivered an eloquent and learned address. He was carried from his carriage to the Lodge Room and back again by four stalwart loving brethren. This was the last official Masonic ceremony that our noble Bro. Tew performed, and the last Lodge that he attended on earth."

The Masonic Hall in Ropergate was used regularly until 1940 when, during the Second World War, the building was requisitioned by the military authorities. From August 1940 to January 1941 four lodges were held, by dispensation, at the Masonic Hall, Castleford. Then the St. Oswald Lodge returned temporarily to the premises in Ropergate only to have confirmed their inadequacy. W. Bro. F. Godson was the prime mover of the proposal to acquire the Carleton Close Estate from the executors of the late Bro. J. G. Lyon and to develop the premises as a Masonic Hall. In July 1942 the Masonic Hall Company Ltd. was formed, with a board of directors comprising three members of St. Oswald Lodge and three members of De Lacy Lodge. The premises in Ropergate were sold to the St. Giles Parochial Church Council for £2300 and the Company purchased the Carleton Close Estate for £3500. The first ceremony, a passing, was performed in what is now the billiard room on the 23rd September 1942, as the top floor of Carleton Close was then let to the Pontefract Infirmary Committee as a convalescent home. The upstairs rooms were vacated in 1946 and the first ceremony in the present temple was performed in 1947. In 1959 the temple was enlarged and refurnished to its present use. At the same time modernisation and alterations to other parts of the premises were carried out, in part through the generosity of the brethren of the two Craft Lodges.

## The 100 years of Lodge Working.

The Lodge has been very active and regularly had over 100 subscribing brethren on its rolls. During the 100 years of its existence there have been 1323 regular and emergency lodges at which 386 candidates have been initiated. The present membership is 104, and the total number of brethren who have appeared on the Lodge Rolls is 468.

Of the 97 brethren who have occupied the Chair of King Solomon, three were Founder Members, 88 were initiated in St. Oswald Lodge, and six were Joining Members of the Lodge.

## Daughter Lodges.

Two daughter lodges, Legiolium No. 1542 and De Lacy No. 4643 have been formed. St. Oswald Lodge also assisted in the formation of De Lacy's daughter lodge Tateshall No. 7645. De Lacy and Tateshall lodges share with St. Oswald the Masonic Temple at Carleton Close.

Legiolium Lodge, Castleford, was founded in 1875 and consecrated by R.W. Bro. Tew, D.Prov.G.M., West Yorkshire on the 30th August 1875. This lodge was formed for the benefit of the brethren of St. Oswald Lodge who resided in Castleford.

De Lacy Lodge, Pontefract, was founded and consecrated on the 4th November 1924. A new lodge was deemed necessary as the number of candidates who sought admission to St. Oswald Lodge during the five years preceding the formation of De Lacy Lodge entailed 46 initiation ceremonies being performed.

In the 1950's, the desire to partake in the mysteries of Freemasonry was such that the waiting period was four or five years for admission to the Pontefract Lodges. It was then felt that a third lodge would be beneficial to the town and as a result Tateshall Lodge was founded and consecrated on the 2nd October 1959.

The St. Oswald Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was founded in 1893 and consecrated on the 17th April of that year.

A lodge of Mark Master Masons was founded in 1928 and a lodge of Royal Ark Mariners was founded as recently as 1955.

## Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings in Pontefract.

Provincial Grand Lodge has met five times in Pontefract. The first occasion celebrated the consecration of the Lodge in 1864 and the second the laying of the foundation stone of St. Stephen's Church, East Hardwick, in 1872.

On the 28th January 1880, the visit was under the joint banners of St. Oswald and Legiolium Lodges and there was a church service after the meeting.

Pontefract masons desired that the Installation of W. Bro. Tew as Provincial Grand Master should be held in Pontefract, but it was found that the town could not offer the accommodation for the numbers who desired to attend the ceremony.

In more recent times the Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings of October 1936 and October 1953 were held under the joint banners of St. Oswald, Legiolium and De Lacy Lodges.

The Charity Committee have met four times in Pontefract; In October 1872, March 1879, October 1908, and September 1941.

## Prominent Members.

One of the founders, probably the founder of the Lodge and one of the best loved masons of his day, brought great honour to our Lodge by being Deputy Provincial Grand Master (1875 to 1885) and ultimately Provincial Grand Master of the West Riding of Yorkshire from 1885 to 1893. He was a worthy mason who added dignity to the relatively newly founded Lodge of St. Oswald. He was a very generous benefactor to Masonic Charities particularly the R.M.I. for Girls. This Lodge owes much to the generosity shown by W. Bro. Tew, not only financially but by his efforts to inculcate the true spirit of Masonry in St. Oswald Lodge.

W. Bro. Tew, as chairman of the Cawood Trustees, and the then W.M. Bro. E. Lord, were instrumental in having the foundation stone of St. Stephen's Church, East Hardwick, laid with true Masonic ceremony. The 23rd October 1872 was a day of great activity, Provincial Grand Lodge met in the morning under the banner of St. Oswald. They were joined by the Marquis of Ripon, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, in a procession from the Town Hall to the end of Ropergate, where wagonettes and private carriages conveyed the brethren to East Hardwick. Here the foundation stone was ceremoniously laid and these proceedings were followed by a Banquet at which 210 people were seated.

For many years public dignitaries were members of the Lodge and included H. C. E. Childers, a Chancellor of the Exchequer, Major Waterhouse, M.P. for Pontefract and a number of Mayors of the ancient borough.

W. Bro. E. Lord was a member of the lodge for over 55 years and even in his latter days was a regular attender. He is still remembered by some of the older, yet still active, members of the Lodge. He wrote a history of Freemasonry in Pontefract for the years 1862 to 1902.

Since the second meeting of the Lodge the Chaplain has usually been in Holy Orders. Four of these brethren have been honoured with the rank of Prov. G. Chaplain. The Lodge has maintained a close link with local churches since a number of incumbents have been members of the Lodge. Even now the Lodge meets at an annual Church service at St. Stephen's, East Hardwick.

### Emulation Working.

The Lodge working is based on Emulation, but there are a number of details where it varies. This is hardly surprising as the Lodge did not set out to follow strict Emulation working. However, throughout this 100 year period there has been a consistency of working which has maintained the early traditions of St. Oswald Lodge. These foundations were set out in precepts from the eminent brother who was our founder.



# List of Past Masters

## of St. Oswald Lodge, No. 910,

1862	T. W. Tew.	1912	Oswald Holmes.
1863	T. W. Tew.	1913	J. Reginald Shaw.
1864	Jerh. Rhodes.	1914	Walter Atkinson.
1865	John Routledge.	1915	P. Darlington.
1866	R. D. Ryder.	1916	J. J. Eley.
1867	W. S. Wood.	1917	H. S. Rogers.
1868	W. S. Wood	1918	A. Collins.
1869	T. W. Tew.	1919	T. Watkinson.
1870	Saml. Slack.	1920	A. W. Archer.
1871	Wm. Hall.	1921	J. A. Haigh.
1872	E. Lord.	1922	T. Aykroyd.
1873	C. Phillips.	1923	A. Dixon.
1874	J. Simpson.	1924	F. Godson.
1875	T. C. Priestlay.	1925	T. J. Sides.
1876	R. H. H. Holmes.	1926	W. Claxton Smith.
1877	G. S. Dunbar.	1927	Chas. H. Maud.
1878	E. T. Clark.	1928	P. Wilson.
1879	W. Mathers.	1929	D. G. Murray.
1880	W. S. Simpson.	1930	E. J. Barnes.
1881	Jos. Quarterman.	1931	W. F. Hirst.
1882	Geo. Malcolm.	1932	Ernest Walker.
1883	G. H. Locking.	1933	J. W. McTrusty.
1884	J. J. Needham.	1934	G. E. Guest.
1885	G. P. Martin.	1935	F. C. Scott.
1886	I. Kaberry.	1936	J. H. Garner.
1887	C. England.	1937	R. W. Ewbank.
1888	C. W. Barber.	1938	F. R. C. Archer.
1889	J. H. Greaves.	1939	J. W. Berry.
1890	R. Fisher.	1940	J. Park.
1891	W. Warde.	1941	W. Guest.
1892	W. H. B. Atkinson.	1942	E. Cliffe.
1893	James Atkinson.	1943	A. Alexander.
1894	Ellis Foulds.	1944	A. Dunford.
1895	John Morrell.	1945	H. Hinchliffe.
1896	J. Holmes Greaves.	1946	A. G. Webster.
1897	F. E. Egerton.	1947	W. Brown.
1898	A. H. B. Lees.	1948	K. W. Godson.
1899	Edwin Lawson.	1949	F. J. Lee.
1900	J. A. Bentley.	1950	S. Weale.
1901	A. Davies.	1951	C. F. Palmer.
1902	R. W. Nicholson.	1952	H. J. Whitehead.
1903	J. W. Hemmant.	1953	A. Pollard.
1904	R. Heptonstall.	1954	A. D. Smith.
1905	J. Eyre Poppleton.	1955	W. H. Metcalfe.
1906	J. Routledge.	1956	E. H. Williams.
1907	T. Butler.	1957	W. Storey.
1908	G. H. Barstow.	1958	F. G. Godson.
1909	T. Waller.	1959	W. U. H. Gregg.
1910	J. Appleyard.	1960	H. J. Gundill.
1911	J. E. Pickard.	1961	H. E. Elsley.

### Petition.

*"To the M.W. Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England."*

We, the undersigned, being regular Registered Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the general principles of the Art, and for the convenience of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new Lodge, to be named the St. Oswald Lodge, Pontefract, in the West Riding of the County of York. In consequence of this desire we pray for a Warrant of Constitution empowering us to meet at Pontefract, in the West Riding of the County of York, and there to discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner according to the forms of the Order and the Laws of the Grand Lodge. And we have nominated and do recommend Brother Thomas William Tew to be the first Master, Brother William Hall to be the first Senior Warden, and Brother Jeremiah Rhodes to be the first Junior Warden of the Lodge. The Prayer of this Petition being granted we promise strict obedience to the Commands of the Grand Master, and the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

*Signed,*

THOS. W. TEW,	No. 981.
WM. HALL,	No. 529.
JEREMIAH RHODES.	No. 364.
G. W. BAYLDON,	No. 727.
JOHN HANDLEY,	No. 727.
FRED LUMB,	No. 727.
WM. STATTER,	No. 727.

*Endorsed on the Petition.*

We, the Officers and Members of the Lodge of "Unanimity" No. 179, Wakefield, and the "Wakefield" Lodge, No. 727, whose names are hereunder written, beg most cordially to support the prayer of the within named Petition.

*Signed,*

GEO. W. WESTERMAN, W.M.,	No. 179.
GEO. W. BAYLDON, W.M.,	No. 727.
PHILIP YORKE SAVILLE, S.W.,	No. 727.
ROBT. MICKLETHWAITE, J.W.,	No. 727.
B. W. ALLEN, Hon. Sec.,	No. 727.
FRANCIS D. STEWART WORTLEY, S.D.,	No. 727.
WM. WOOD, J.D.,	No. 727.
FRED. LUMB, P.M.,	No. 727.
ROWLAND CHILD, P.M.,	No. 727.

"ZETLAND" G.M.

**TO all and every our Right Worshipful Worshipful and Loving Brethren**

WE Thomas Dundas Earl of Zetland Baron Dundas of Aske in the County of York,  
Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the North Riding of Yorkshire,  
Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle

**GRAND MASTER**

of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons  
of England.

**SEND GREETING:**

KNOW YE: That We by the authority and under the sanction of the United  
Grand Lodge of England vested in us for that purpose and at the humble  
petition of our Right Trust and Well Beloved Brethren Thomas William Tew,  
William Hall, Jeremiah Rhodes, George Wood Bayldon, William Statter,  
Frederick Lumb and John Handley DO HEREBY CONSTITUTE the said  
Brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the Title or  
Denomination of

**No. 1212**

**THE SAINT OSWALD LODGE**

The said Lodge to meet at the Masonic Hall, Pontefract in the West Riding of  
the County of York on the Monday on or before each full Moon of every Month  
empowering them in the said Lodge when duly congregated to make pass and raise  
Free Masons according to the Ancient Custom of the Craft in all ages and Nations  
throughout the known World. And further at their said Petition and of the great  
trust and confidence reposed in every of the above named Brethren WE DO  
APPOINT the said THOMAS WILLIAM TEW to be the first MASTER, the said  
WILLIAM HALL to be the first SENIOR WARDEN and the said JEREMIAH RHODES  
to be the first JUNIOR WARDEN for opening and holding the said Lodge and  
until such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and installed strictly  
charging that every Member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge  
and who must previously have duly served as Warden in a Warranted Lodge  
shall be installed in Ancient form and according to the Laws of Grand Lodge  
that he may thereby be fully invoked with the dignities and powers of his office.  
And we do require you the said THOMAS WILLIAM Tew to take special care that  
all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that  
you and they and all other the Members of the said Lodge do observe perform  
and keep the Laws Rules and Orders contained in the Book of Constitutions and  
all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or trans-  
mitted by us or our successors Grand Masters or by our Deputy Grand Master  
for the time being. And we do enjoin you to make such By-Laws for the  
government of your Lodge as shall to the majority of your Members appear  
proper and necessary the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the  
general Laws and Regulations of the Craft a copy whereof you are to transmit  
to us. And we do require you to cause all such By-Laws and Regulations and  
also an account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a book to be  
kept for that purpose. And you are in nowise to omit to send to us or our  
successors Grand Masters or to The Right Honorable George Frederick Samuel  
Earl de Grey and Earl of Ripon of Studley Royal in the West Riding of Yorkshire  
Our DEPUTY GRAND MASTER or to the Deputy Grand Master for the time  
being at least once in every year a list of the Members of your Lodge and the  
names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall  
have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon. It being our  
will and intention that this our WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION shall continue  
in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of  
our Grand Lodge. And you the said THOMAS WILLIAM TEW are further required  
as soon as conveniently may be to send us an account in writing of what shall  
be done by virtue of these Presents.

**GIVEN** under our HANDS and the SEAL of the GRAND LODGE at  
London this 14th February A.L. 5862. A.D. 1862

**BY COMMAND OF THE M.W. GRAND MASTER**

Signed "Wm. Gray Clarke" G.S.

Signed "de Grey and Ripon" D.G.M.

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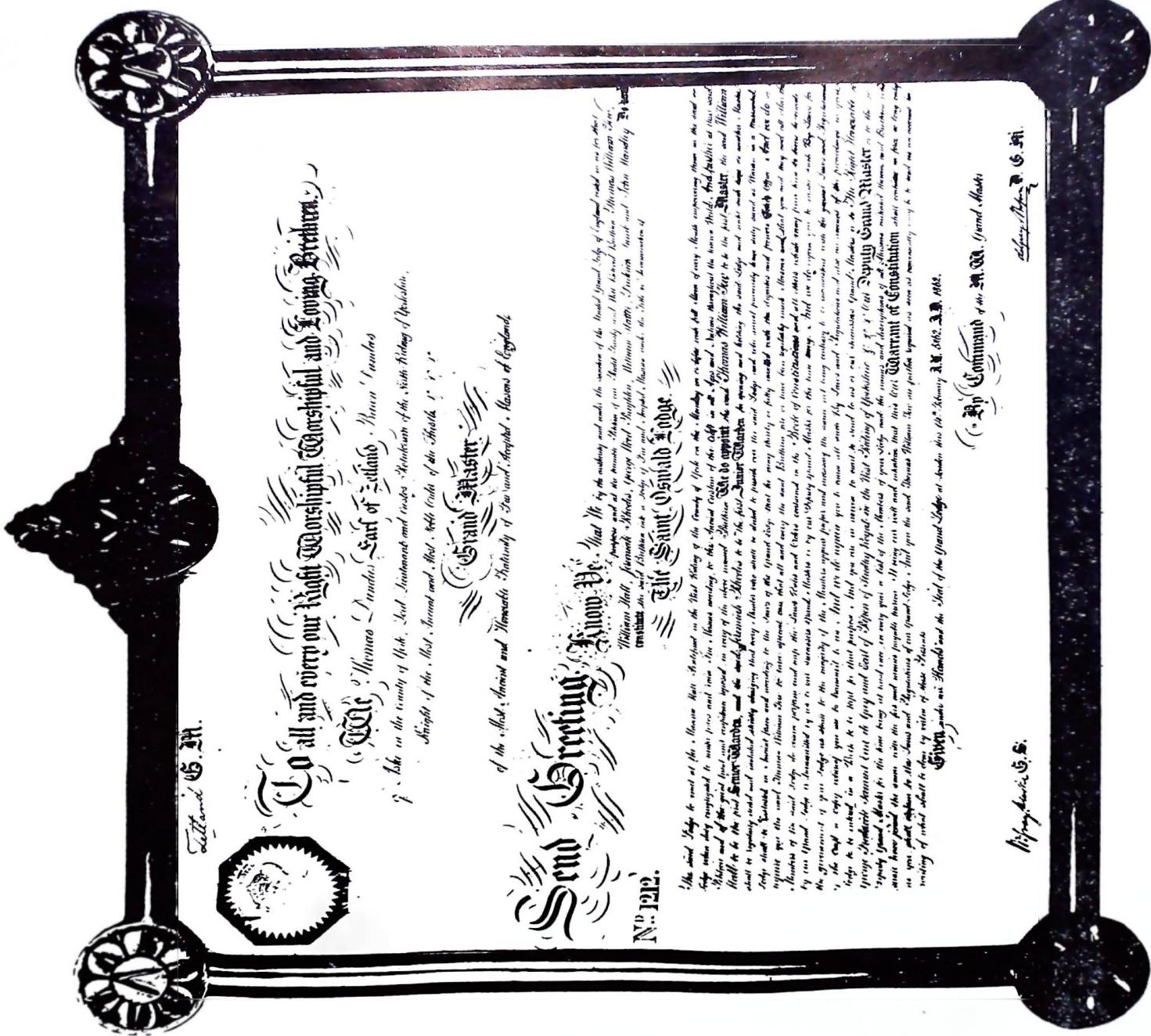
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pon" D.G.M.



**Copy of Original Warrant—Dated 14th February, 1862.**

Full text of Warrant printed on opposite page.



Copy of Original Warrant—Dated 14th February, 1862.

Full text of Warrant printed on opposite page.

J. ATKINSON AND SONS, STAR WORKS, PONTEFRACT. TEL. 2363.